



**UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

14 June 2012

The United States Army 237th Birthday

Today, we celebrate the 237th birthday of our Army. For 237 years, our Soldiers, Civilians and Families have been the strength of our Nation in peace and at war.

Today, America's Army is engaged in nearly 150 countries around the world, on 6 of 7 continents, with over 94,000 Soldiers deployed today and 94,000 forward stationed. Our Nation depends on its Army to defend the shores of our homeland, defeat enemy forces abroad, and help with recovery efforts in the wake of natural disasters.

We have the best equipped, best trained, and best led Army in history because of the 1.1 million professional Soldiers who serve in the Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve, as well as the dedicated service of our Army Civilians. It is our Army's competence, adaptability, moral character, and resolute commitment that defines us as professionals and guarantees our long-standing sacred trust with the American people.

I'm proud of your accomplishments, your sacrifice, and your selfless dedication to our Army and to the Nation. Today, on its 237th birthday, we honor our Army and the remarkable men and women, past and present, who have embraced our Nation's call to service. Army Strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. T. Odierno".

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
General, United States Army